

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 088621
ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE:GN

APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE

-----210639Z 036475 /15

R 201546Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 088621

FOL REPEAT LAHORE 407 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD
KARACHI NEW DELHI DTD 19 APR.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 0407

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION MOVEMENT MAINTAINS MOMENTUM:

PRESSURE CONTINUES TO MOUNT ON PPP

REF: (A) LAHORE 0398; (B) LAHORE 0406

1. SUMMARY: PNA HELD HUGE PROCESSION IN LAHORE APRIL 18
IN CONTINUING PROTEST AGAINST PPP RULE, SAME DAY OPPOSITION
REJECTED BHUTTO'S OFFER TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS TO PRO-
VINCIAL ASSEMBLY. VIOLENT CLASHES WERE REPORTED BETWEEN
PPP AND PNA SUPPORTERS IN LYALLPUR. PEACEFUL PROCESSIONS
CARRIED OUT IN A NUMBER OF OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS. THREE
MORE MNA'S QUIT SEATS, INCLUDING SHAUKAT HAYAT. DISSIDENT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 088621

PPP GROUP CALLS BHUTTO'S APRIL 17 ANNOUNCEMENTS "HOGWASH."
NAWA-I-WAQT DEMANDS FRESH ELECTIONS. PIA SLOWDOWN AND THREAT
OF OTHER LABOR AND STUDENT AGITATIONS POSE FURTHER THREAT
TO GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. BHUTTO'S OFFER TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS, REJECTED AGAIN
BY PNA, HAS NOT HALTED OPPOSITION MOMENTUM. PNA HELD MASSIVE

DEMONSTRATION IN LAHORE APRIL 18 IN WHICH MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE TOOK PART. SECTION 144 HAS BEEN LIFTED IN CITY WHICH TECHNICALLY MADE DEMONSTRATIONS LEGAL. FOLLOWING PEACEFUL PROCESSION ON THE MALL, SMALLER GROUP OF VIOLENT PNA WORKERS BURNED A BOOK SHOP WHICH SELLS "PROGRESSIVE" (READ SOVIET) LITERATURE, ATTACKED THE OFFICE OF A LAWYER MISTAKENLY THOUGHT TO BE PPP SYMPATHIZER AND RANSACKED A BAKERY. MOTIVE FOR LATTER ATTACK IS UNKNOWN. MORE PNA MARCHERS WERE REPORTEDLY SEEN CARRYING PISTOLS, STENGUNS, DAGGERS AND OTHER WEAPONS TO COUNTER POSSIBLE PPP ATTACKS.

3. ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE SERIOUS CLASHES BROKE OUT BETWEEN PPP AND PNA SUPPORTERS IN LYALLPUR. PPP GROUP REPORTEDLY OPENED FIRE ON AN OPPOSITION PROCESSION, KILLING AT LEAST TWO AND WOUNDING THIRTEEN. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT PUT NUMBER OF WOUNDED AT FIFTY. PPP MOB, WHICH WAS LED BY A MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FROM LYALLPUR, WENT ON RAMPAGE IN CITY ABUSING PNA SYMPATHIZERS, TEARING DOWN PNA FLAGS, BURNING SOME VEHICLES AND ATTACKING A SHOP OWNED BY PNA WORKER. THERE IS GREAT TENSION IN CITY AND FURTHER CLASHES ARE FEARED. PEACEFUL OPPOSITION PROTESTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN BAHAWALPUR, SIALKOT, MULTAN AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PLACES.

4. DEFECTIONS FROM PPP CONTINUE: THREE MORE MNA'S, INCLUDING SHAUKAT HAYAT, HAVE LEFT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BRINGING TOTAL NUMBER SO FAR TO FOUR. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT LAHORE APRIL 18 SHAUKAT SAID HE WOULD NOT JOIN ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY, BUT PLANS TO MAKE AN INDIVIDUAL EFFORT TO SOLVE PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS. DIALOGUE, HE ASSERTED, IS THE ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 088621

SOLUTION. IN THIS CONNECT ON HE WILL SEEK FURTHER MEETINGS WITH LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES TO TRY AND GET THEM TO COMPROMISE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PNA WOULD DROP RESIGNATION DEMAND IF BHUTTO AGREED TO HOLD FRESH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. SHAUKAT SAID MORE RESIGNATIONS FROM PPP WILL FOLLOW SOON.

5. GROUP OF FORMER PPP MEMBERS LED BY TAJ MOHAMMAD LANGAH ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT IN LAHORE APRIL 18 CALLING BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS "HOGWASH." STATEMENT CALLED ON PEOPLE TO REJECT THEM, DEMANDED THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT RESIGN AND THAT FRESH ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BE HELD. APPEAL WAS MADE TO WORKERS, PEASANTS AND STUDENTS TO SUPPORT OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. HUTMENT DWELLERS WERE WARNED NOT BE BECOME TOOLS OF PPP BECAUSE PARTY NEVER FULFILLS ITS PROMISES. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT ABDUL HAFEEZ KARDAR, FORMER MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY WHO RESIGNED FROM PPP LAST WEEK, ANNOUNCED APRIL 18 THAT HE HAS JOINED AIR MARSHAL ASGHAR KHAN'S TEHRIK PARTY.

6. PRO-OPPOSITION URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT COMMENTED IN EDITORIAL APRIL 19 THAT BHUTTO'S PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION PROPOSAL HAS COME TOO LATE. WITH ITS OWN LEGISLATORS ABANDONING THE PPP, NAWA-I-WAQT CALLED ON BHUTTO TO ACCEDE TO THE OPPOSITION'S DEMAND FOR NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, QUESTIONING WHETHER HE HAD ANY CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL OR MORAL JUSTIFICATION FOR REMAINING IN OFFICE.

7. LABOR PROBLEMS: SLOWDOWN STARTED BY PIA PILOTS, FLIGHT ENGINEERS AND NAVIGATORS APRIL 18 HAS SERIOUSLY CURTAILED DOMESTIC FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF LAHORE. ALL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND AIRLINE IS REFUSING TO TAKE BOOKINGS. ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, SLOWDOWN HAS EMBARRASSED GOVERNMENT AND RAISES PROSPECT THAT OTHER WORKERS WILL USE PRESENT TURMOIL TO PRESS THEIR DEMANDS. RAILWAY STRIKE IS REMOVED AND STUDENTS HAVE THREATENED TO "JAM THE WHEELS" BEGINNING APRIL 21, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 088621

DISRUPTING ALL TRANSPORT NATIONWIDE.
GAMON

UNQUOTE VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE088621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RKMCKEE:GN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0530
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770437/aaaabfwk.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b0db1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAHORE 398, 77 LAHORE 406
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2746807
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION MOVEMENT MAINTAINS MOMENTUM: PRESSURE CONTINUES TO MOUNT ON PPP
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b0db1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009